

**BOROUGH OF FRANKLIN PARK
BOROUGH COUNCIL WORK SESSION MINUTES
WEDNESDAY, MAY 4, 2022**

A work session of the Borough Council of the Borough of Franklin Park was held on Wednesday, May 4, 2022 at 7:00 p.m. at the Municipal Building, 2344 West Ingomar Road, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania 15237. The meeting was also held virtually via remote audio and video conferencing.

Council President John Parks called the meeting to order.

COUNCIL MEMBERS:

Jiang Lipresent
Brian S. Malkinpresent
Lucas R. Myslinski, Vice Presidentpresent
Uday Palledpresent
John P. Parks, Presidentpresent
Thomas C. Schwartzmier, Second Vice Presidentpresent
Junior Councilperson Jackie DiGiacomopresent
Mayor Dennis E. O'Keefepresent

ENGINEER:

Shawn Wingrove, Lennon, Smith, Souleret Engineering, Inc.present

SOLICITOR:

Robert Max Junker, Babst Callandpresent via Zoom

STAFF:

Zach Brower, Recreation Program Directorpresent
Gary Bucuren, Superintendent of Public Works.....present
Cindy Crain, Finance Director/Borough Treasurer.....present
Rege Ebner, Borough Managerpresent
Walt Healy, Police Chief.....present
Cathy Krummert, Borough Secretarypresent
Andy Nock, Assistant Bldg Inspector/Fire & Technology Official...present
Tim Phillips, Building Inspector/Zoning Officer.....present

AUDIENCE: 7 (0 in person and 7 via Zoom)

2021 AUDIT REPORT – Mr. Brian McCall of Maher Duessel presented the 2021 Audit Report. The January 1, 2023 change from cash basis to modified accrual was also discussed.

ANNUAL MEETING WITH PLANNING COMMISSION CHAIRPERSON – Steve Winikoff met with Council and noted that things are going well. Attendance has been strong, and they have strong participation. They have good discussions, and everybody expresses their thoughts and opinions. The interactions with the public have been cordial and civil, and he believes the public is being heard and dealt with fairly. The mission and charge of the Planning Commission is clear, and they have a good group of veteran members who are able to provide their experience when an issue arises. The solicitor, engineer and staff always provide the Commission with the guidance they need. Mr. Winikoff was asked if during their reviews they have found any inconsistencies that should be addressed. He noted that there have been times when the ordinances are silent on a certain matter or item. Mr. Winikoff was encouraged to notify Mr. Phillips to bring items of concern back to Council to be reviewed and addressed. He noted that it is the Commission's goal to apply the ordinances consistently and to the best of their ability before making a recommendation to Council.

OLD BUSINESS

- Meeting Room audio/visual improvements – Andy Nock provided an update for the needed equipment and software to be purchased from Cascade Electronics at a cost of \$3,192.50 for the wireless receiving of video. The equipment will be compatible with any future improvements to build the system out as originally intended. The labor and assembly will be done in-house, and Cascade will provide phone assistance for set up. If on-site assistance is required, it will be billed at the labor rate of \$130.00 per man hour plus materials. The items were in stock as of yesterday, and the price is good for seven days. It was noted that we are not adding video cameras at this time. Council concurred to move forward with the purchase of the equipment and noted that it is included in the budget.
- Request to post additional information on website – A discussion was held at the last meeting regarding this matter. Mr. Junker had advised that it would be difficult to redact and post the Council meeting packet. Mr. Ebner suggested posting some documents/information on the website to share with residents. Council made some suggestions and will provide their input to Mr. Ebner regarding the types of information to be posted and shared with residents. He will then come back to Council at the June work session with a list of suggested items for further discussion. The LGA intern will be working to determine what information our residents want to see and how they want to receive the information.
- Pickleball play at Old Orchard Park – Mr. Parks disseminated the statistical information and suggestions provided by some residents near the pickleball courts. We need to effectively implement the use of the quiet pickleball, and the challenge is how to do it. Mr. Brower has received calls and emails from both sides of the issue. Mr. Junker discussed possible enforcement measures. A larger sign should be posted to get everyone's attention that the quiet pickleballs are required for play, and we need to get the quiet balls in the hands of players at Old Orchard Park.

AGENDA REVIEW -The following May 18, 2022 regular meeting agenda items were discussed:

- Ordinance No. 666-2022, Farmers' Markets – Mr. Junker reviewed the procedures for the public hearing and enactment. Mr. Myslinski had provided Kaelins and Soergels with a copy of the proposed ordinance today, and he informed them that they are welcome to provide comments. Mr. Junker noted that the process would restart if Council receives additional public comments and decides to table the motion on the enactment of the ordinance to make amendments or changes. Mr. Parks stated that there may be a potential impact to some farmers' markets outside of the Borough, and he asked if they would be permitted to comment. Mr. Junker stated that they would be permitted to make comments during the public hearing as long as they have some interest in the potential legislation.
- Ordinance No. 667-2022, Solicitation – Mr. Junker noted that this ordinance revises the Solicitation Ordinance to reflect some of the changes since the last amendment and to also reflect the use of farmers' markets and food trucks. This ordinance has been introduced and advertised for potential action at the May meeting, and it does not require a public hearing.
- Ordinance No. 668-2022, additional right of way related to the Summer Fields Plan of Lots – Mr. Junker noted that this is an acceptance of the dedication of additional right of way along Brandt School Road for the installation of sidewalks in the Summer Fields Plan of Lots. This is necessary because of the failure of the developer to install the required sidewalks that are shown on the plan. This ordinance will be introduced for potential action in June. Mr. Junker noted that he had spoken with Mr. Ebner, Mr. Phillips and Mr. Parks regarding outreach to the five residents to provide a copy and explanation letter to them about what this means and what the Borough's intentions are.

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- Orchard Hill Church reapproval – This application was originally approved in May 2021, but it must now be reapproved because they did not sign the development agreement within six months of the original approval.

STAFF REPORTS:

Report by Superintendent of Public Works

Mr. Bucuren provided the following report:

- The parking lot in Blueberry Hill Park has been paved with the binder course, and temporary parking lines have been painted. They will wait for hotter weather to put down the wearing course so they can put down hot asphalt since there are many different angles.
- They have poured the concrete patio and a couple sections of sidewalk at Ms. Gray's house on White Oak Court. They will finish the sidewalks and backfill with topsoil when they have better weather. Matting or something green will be placed across the spillway so it is not so noticeable. They may also need to purchase some arborvitae to replace the ones that were removed around the patio.
- They have delayed the milling in Franklin Towne until Monday due to weather. They will also mill Wood Acres Court and Crestview Drive. Paving will follow on these streets.
- Contractor Don Pohl donated 300-500 ton of topsoil to the Borough.
- Mr. Bucuren explained that the 2022 cab and chassis originally authorized has now been changed to a 2023, and the price will increase by approximately \$4,000.00 due to supply chain issues and market conditions. He has been told that the price for the truck body and accessories should remain the same with no increase. A motion to amend the previous motion will be added to the regular meeting agenda.

Report by Building Inspector/Zoning Officer

Mr. Phillips provided the following report:

- The Planning Commission will consider the WetGo Land Development and Conditional Use applications, and the Nicholson Heights Subdivision application under old business. They will also consider a new Conditional Use application for a detached garage larger than 1,000 sq. ft. on Reis Run Road.
- The Zoning Hearing Board will consider one application for a porch roof encroachment into the required rear yard.
- Mr. Myslinski commented that he received complaints from neighbors regarding landscapers starting early in the morning. It was noted that they are permitted to start at 7:00 a.m.

Report by Recreation Program Director

Mr. Brower provided the following report:

- He is working on preparations for the Festival in the Park.
- There is an issue with wiring pulling loose from a light pole in Blueberry Hill Park near Field 3 and it is blowing fuses. A scissor lift will be needed to fix the issue.
- The fencing at Field 4 is too low and needs to be addressed to stop balls from going into the bleachers and parking lot.

Report by Borough Engineer

Council had previously received a written report from LSSE. Mr. Wingrove reviewed the following items:

- They are working to close out Baiano for last year's curb and gutter project and simultaneously kicking off with N&N Landscaping for this year's project.
- They are working through maintenance bond items with the developer of the Estates at Franklin Fields. The bond expires in June.

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- They met with architect Steve Paxton regarding the log cabin and barn reuse on the Big Sewickley Creek property. Mr. Paxton is going to refine the scope of work and provide a revised proposal for consideration at the regular meeting. The original proposal included all of the structures on the property at a cost of approximately \$58,000.00. The budgeted amount is \$40,000.00 so we asked Mr. Paxton to revise his proposal to focus only on the log house for now. If the revised proposal is received, it will be discussed at the May 18th pre meeting for possible approval at the regular meeting.

Report by Chief of Police

Chief Healy provided the following report:

- The vendor finished the camera project at Rochester Road and West Ingomar Road, and the Chief indicated that another camera may need to be added to provide views in all directions.

Report by Solicitor

Council had previously received Mr. Junker's written report. Mr. Junker reviewed the following items:

- Mr. Junker commented on the Allegheny County sick leave ordinance. The memo circulated with the ordinance referenced that federal, state and local governments were exempted from the requirement already. However, that is not the case, and the actual text of the ordinance does not exclude local government. There is also an issue with the wording regarding seasonal and part-time workers. A lot of school districts have provided comments to the County. There may be an opportunity to provide additional comments to piggyback on the school districts push to say that we handle our own business, and they have already acknowledged that there should be an exemption for local government and school districts. This may be something for the North Hills COG to bring forward because there is no limitation on the size of the municipalities or number of employees. It is a burdensome regulation.

RESIDENT EMAIL REGARDING QUALITY OF LIFE ISSUES – Council and Mayor received an email from a resident regarding quality of life issues in the Borough. Council discussed some of the points made in the email and will share some of the information with the Comprehensive Plan consultant, the school district, state officials and PennDOT. Mr. Ebner cautioned that we need to work with PennDOT, and we cannot continually make requests. Residents may also contact PennDOT directly with their concerns. Council discussed the possibility of a tree saving ordinance.

Mrs. Crain, Mr. Brower and Mr. Nock left the meeting at this time.

MANAGER'S REPORT DISCUSSION ITEMS

- McCandless Franklin Park Ambulance Authority (MFPAA) annual donation – The budget includes a \$30,000.00 donation to MFPAA, and it is usually authorized in May. Council concurred to move forward with the donation.
- Reschedule Road/Facilities Tour – Council discussed and rescheduled the tour for Saturday, May 21st starting at 8 a.m. Staff will try to secure a van for the tour.
- Request to apply for trails planning grant – Mr. Ebner met with Ed Engler of the North Hills Walk Bike Run Alliance regarding the upcoming deadline to submit a planning grant for trails. Mr. Engler noted that it is better to submit an application for multi-municipal trails and pointed out that McCandless has specific trails planned. Mr. Engler and his group are willing to do a lot of the legwork. Mr. Ebner will look into it further and report back to Council at the next meeting.
- Local Government Academy (LGA) intern – Dinah Bailey, a freshman at Washington & Jefferson College, has been chosen as the summer intern. She has a real interest in communicating with residents to find out what information they want from the Borough and how they want to receive it. We would also like to do a survey of our residents specifically regarding recreation to incorporate into the Comprehensive Plan. The internship can start as early as May 23rd and must be completed by August 31st. The LGA will offset half of the cost.

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REPORTS ON ALOM SPRING CONFERENCE SESSIONS - The following Council members provided a summary of the sessions they attended at the April conference:

- Tethered Communications by Mr. Palled.
- Resources for Police and Your Pavement Program by Mr. Myslinski.
Chief Healy left the meeting at this time.
- Infrastructure Assessments in You Community by Mr. Schwartzmier.
- Tree Pittsburgh by Mr. Parks.

REPORTS FROM COUNCIL MEMBERS

- Mayor O'Keefe asked about the status of scheduling the Waste Management recycling facility tour. It was noted that Donna Platt is coordinating the tour and two different dates have been proposed. The Mayor also asked about the possibility of a post office for Franklin Park since we have three different zip codes. It was noted that other municipalities have tried to do so, and they have been unsuccessful.

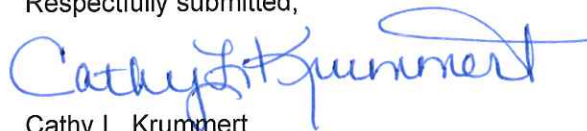
Mr. Bucuren left the meeting at this time.

- Jackie DiGiacomo, Junior Council Person noted that the Community Garden is on track to open June 1st, and she will be posting flyers this weekend.
- Dr. Li received a resident email asking if the house that caught on fire on Riva Ridge Drive will be demolished or restored. It was noted that there is an ongoing investigation into the fire. Mr. Phillips will be pursuing the matter since it is a hazard. He will require that the burned vehicle be removed, and proper protection be put up around the house.
- Mr. Malkin noted that the electronic sign advertises Council's regular meetings, but it does not advertise the pre meetings and work sessions. He asked that all meetings be advertised on the sign.
- Mr. Palled reported that the litter cleanup day was held on Saturday. They had 14 volunteers who collected 31 bags of trash and a lot of car parts. The police controlled traffic. The EAC is considering holding the event twice a year.

EXECUTIVE SESSION – An executive session was held to discuss the Yochus litigation, Odorisio litigation, Bliss Land Development potential litigation, Davies potential litigation, Matteo potential litigation, personnel, potential property purchase and the Public Works/Parks contract.

As there was no further business, the meeting adjourned at approximately 10:50 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,


Cathy L. Krummert
Borough Secretary